

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 13, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 14-16 and 18-26 have been amended and claim 17 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Applicants note that the Office Action refers to claims 14-23 as pending, but the preliminary amendment of November 20, 2000 added claims 14-26. Thus, applicants respectfully assert that claims 14-16 and 18-26 are pending and submitted for consideration.

Claims 14-16 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by “Shad” et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,804). Applicants note that the first inventor named on that patent is “Shah.” The Office Action also indicates that claims 17-19 contained allowable subject matter and that those claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 18 and 19 have been written in independent form and the subject matter of claim 17 has been added to claims 14 and 23, where the latter claims are independent claims. Given the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for allowance and that the application should be allowed to proceed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant’s undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin F. Turner
Registration No. 43,437

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

KFT:jf